

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 5 1. A system for providing text-to-speech conversion of a body of text, the system comprising:
- a first executable resource; and
- a second executable resource, wherein:
- the first executable resource generates text portions from the body
- 10 of text in response to receiving an initial web request to convert the body of text to speech;
- the first executable resource provides an output in response to generating the text portions, the output comprising a sequence of resource identifiers suitable for use in the text-to-speech conversion of the text
- 15 portions, each of the resource identifiers comprising a corresponding one of the text portions and an identity of a resource capable of performing the text-to-speech conversion;
- the second executable resource receives a text portion web request that requests the conversion of at least one text portion to an audio format, the text portion web request comprising the at least one text portion and
- 20 one of the resource identifiers; and
- the second executable resource provides at least one media file suitable for audio output based on the text portion web request.

2. The system of claim 1, wherein:

the first executable resource generates the text portions in response to receiving an initial hypertext transport protocol (HTTP) request to convert the body of text to speech;

5 the first executable resource provides a hypertext markup language (HTML) page comprising uniform resource locators (URL's), wherein each URL comprises a text character string suitable for conversion to the audio format and an HTTP address of the resource; and

the second executable resource receives at least one HTTP request
10 comprising at least one of the URL's.

3. A method for providing text-to-speech conversion of a body of text, the method comprising the steps of:

generating text portions from the body of text in response to receiving an
15 initial web request to convert the body of text to speech;

providing an output in response to generating the text portions, the output comprising a sequence of resource identifiers suitable for use in the text-to-speech conversion of the text portions, each of the resource identifiers comprising a corresponding one of the text portions and an identity of a resource capable of performing the text-to-speech conversion;

receiving a text portion web request that requests the conversion of at least one text portion to an audio format, the text portion web request comprising the at least text portion and one of the resource identifiers in response to the step of providing the output; and

25 providing at least one media file suitable for audio output in response to
the step of receiving the text portion web request.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein

the step of generating text portions comprises generating text portions in response to receiving an initial hypertext transport protocol (HTTP) request to convert the body of text to speech;

- 5 the step of providing the output comprises providing a hypertext markup language (HTML) page comprising uniform resource locators (URL's), each URL comprising a text character string suitable for conversion to the audio format and an HTTP address of the resource; and

10 the step of receiving the text portion web request comprises receiving at least one HTTP request comprising at least one of the URL's in response to the step of providing the output.

5. A server for providing text-to-audio resource information, the server comprising:

a network interface; and

- 15 an executable resource, wherein the executable resource:

generates text portions from a body of text;

formats resource identifiers suitable for use in text-to-audio conversion of the text portions, each of the resource identifiers comprising a corresponding one of the text portions and an identity of a resource capable of performing text-to-audio conversion; and

- 20 provides through the network interface an output comprising the resource identifiers.

6. The server of claim 5, wherein the resource identifiers are uniform resource locators (URL's) having text portions comprising character strings suitable for conversion to an audio format and the identity of the resource is a hypertext transport protocol (HTTP) address of the resource.
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7. The server of claim 5, wherein the executable resource provides the resource identifiers in a prescribed sequence based on respective positions of the text portions in the body of text.
- 10 8. A method in a server for providing text-to-audio resource information, the method comprising the steps of:
- generating text portions from a body of text;
- formatting resource identifiers suitable for use in text-to-audio conversion of the text portions, each of the resource identifiers comprising a corresponding one of the text portions and an identity of a resource capable of performing the text-to-audio conversion; and
- providing an output comprising the resource identifiers in response to the step of formatting the resource identifiers.
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- 20 9. The method of claim 8, further comprising the step of
- receiving an initial request for a text-to-audio conversion of the body of text,
- wherein the step of generating the text portions comprises generating the text portions in response to the step of receiving the initial request.
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10. The method of claim 8, wherein the step of generating the text portions comprises generating each text portion in a manner suitable for inclusion in a hypertext transport protocol (HTTP) request.

11. The method of claim 8, wherein the step of providing the output comprises providing the resource identifiers in the form of uniform resource locators (URL's) having text portions comprising character strings suitable for conversion to an audio format and the identity of the resource comprising a hypertext transport protocol (HTTP) address of the resource.
12. The method of claim 8, wherein the step of providing the output comprises providing the resource identifiers in a prescribed sequence based on respective positions of the text portions in the body of text.
13. A server for providing text-to-audio resource information, the server comprising:
a network interface; and
a means for producing resource identifiers, wherein the producing means:
generates text portions from a body of text;
formats resource identifiers suitable for use in text-to-audio conversion of the text portions, each of the resource identifiers comprising a corresponding one of the text portions and an identity of a resource capable of performing text-to-audio conversion; and
provides through the network interface an output comprising the resource identifiers in response to the step of formatting the resource identifiers.
14. The server of claim 13, wherein the resource identifiers are uniform resource locators (URL's) having text portions comprising character strings suitable for conversion to an audio format and the identity of the resource is a hypertext transport protocol (HTTP) address of the resource.

15. A computer program product that includes a computer readable medium having instructions stored thereon for providing text-to-audio resource information, such that the instructions, when carried out by a computer, cause the computer to perform the steps of:
- 5 generating text portions from a body of text;
- formatting resource identifiers suitable for use in text-to-audio conversion of the text portions, each of the resource identifiers comprising a corresponding one of the text portions and an identity of a resource capable of performing the text-to-audio conversion; and
- 10 providing an output comprising the resource identifiers in response to the step of formatting the resource identifiers.
16. The computer program product of claim 15, wherein the step of providing the output comprises providing the resource identifiers in the form of uniform resource locators (URL's) having text portions comprising character strings
- 15 suitable for conversion to an audio format and the identity of the resource comprising a hypertext transport protocol (HTTP) address of the resource.

17. A text-to-audio server for providing text-to-audio conversion of a body of text, the text-to-audio server comprising:

a network interface; and

an executable resource, wherein the executable resource:

- 5 receives through the network interface a text portion web request that requests the conversion to an audio format of at least one text portion generated from a body of text, the text portion web request comprising the at least one text portion and the identity of a resource capable of text-to-audio conversion; and

- 10 generates a response suitable for audio output in response to receiving the text portion web request.

18. The text-to-audio server of claim 17, wherein the text portion web request comprises a uniform resource locator (URL) comprising character strings suitable for conversion to the audio format and the identity of the resource comprises a hypertext transport protocol (HTTP) address of the resource.

19. The text-to-audio server of claim 17, wherein the response comprises media files suitable for the audio output.

20. , A method in a text-to-audio server for providing text-to-audio conversion of a body of text, comprising the steps of:
- receiving a text portion web request that requests the conversion to an audio format of at least one text portion generated from a body of text, the text portion web request comprising the at least one text portion and the identity of a resource capable of text-to-audio conversion; and
- generating a response suitable for audio output in response to receiving the text portion web request.
21. The method of claim 20, wherein the step of receiving the text portion web request comprises receiving a uniform resource locator (URL) comprising character strings suitable for conversion to the audio format and the identity of the resource comprises a hypertext transport protocol (HTTP) address of the resource.
22. The method of claim 20, wherein the step of generating the response comprises generating media files suitable for the audio output.
23. , A text-to-audio server for providing text-to-audio conversion of a body of text, the text-to-audio server comprising:
- a network interface; and
- means for converting text to audio, wherein the converting means:
- receives through the network interface a text portion web request that requests the conversion to an audio format of at least one text portion generated from a body of text, the text portion web request comprising the at least one text portion and the identity of a resource capable of text-to-audio conversion; and
- generates a response suitable for audio output in response to receiving the text portion web request.

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27., A method in a browser for providing text-to-speech conversion of a body of text, the method comprising the steps of:

requesting conversion of the body of text to speech;

receiving a prescribed sequence of resource identifiers comprising

5 respective text portions generated sequentially from the body of text, each of the resource identifiers comprising one of the respective text portions and an identity of a resource capable of performing the text-to-speech conversion;

providing the resource identifiers in the prescribed sequence to the resource; and

10 providing audio-based output according to the prescribed sequence, based on media files received from the resource in response to providing the resource identifiers, the media files representing the respective text portions.

28. The method of claim 27, wherein

15 the step of receiving the prescribed sequence of resource identifiers comprises receiving a hypertext markup language (HTML) page comprising uniform resource locators (URL's) comprising text character strings suitable for conversion to an audio format and a hypertext transport protocol (HTTP) address of the resource; and

20 the step of providing the resource identifiers in the prescribed sequence to the resource comprises providing hypertext transport protocol (HTTP) requests to the resource.

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29. A resource identifier suitable for use in requesting text-to-audio conversion over a network, comprising:

a text portion generated from a body of text; and

an identity of a resource capable of converting the text portion to an audio format.

30. The resource identifier of claim 29, wherein the text portion comprises character strings suitable for conversion to the audio format.

31. The resource identifier of claim 29, wherein the identity of the resource is a hypertext transport protocol (HTTP) address of the resource.

32. A computer data propagated signal embodied in a propagated medium, having a packet of data comprising a hypertext transport protocol (HTTP) request, the HTTP request comprising:

a text portion generated from a body of text; and

an identity of a resource capable of converting the text portion to an audio format.